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# The Signal



Friday, July 22, 2005

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 25, No. 29

## News UPDATE

### Freedom Team

Freedom Team Salute honors Veterans and those who support Soldiers. Active duty, Guard and Reserves may show their spouses, parents and employers they appreciate their support by giving them a Freedom Team Salute.

Freedom Team will be at the PX **today** to **Sunday** to help with nominations, or go to [www.freedomteamsalute.army.mil](http://www.freedomteamsalute.army.mil).

### School screenings

The 2005 school screening program for school age children eligible for care at Eisenhower Army Medical Center begins July 30.

The screenings are for students entering school in Georgia for the first time. Screenings will be held **July 30**, and **Aug. 6** and **13** in the Internal Medicine Clinic.

Appointments required; call 787-7300 during normal business hours to schedule screening (*sports physicals must be scheduled separately*).

### Retirement ceremony

The July retirement ceremony is 1:30 p.m. **Thursday** in Alexander Hall.

For information, call John Pitts at 791-9536.

### AMU information

A representative from American Military University will be available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Thursday** at the Education Center, Bldg. 21606, to discuss the educational needs of the military community.

For information, e-mail Buddy Maertens at [fmaertens@apus.edu](mailto:fmaertens@apus.edu).

### Free concert

The 25th Army Band, a National Guard unit from Boise, Idaho, will be performing a concert at 3 p.m. **July 30** at St. John Towers.

The event is free and open to the public. St. John Towers is located at 724 Greene St. in Augusta.

### Awards ceremony

The installation quarterly awards ceremony is 8:30 a.m. **Thursday** in the lobby of Conrad Hall.

For information, call Linda Means at 791-1871.

### Signal reunion

The Signal Officer Candidate School Association annual reunion is 1 p.m. **Oct. 9** in Freedom Park.

For information, call John Pitts at 791-9536.

## Strong takes control of Signal Corps

Charmain Z. Brackett  
Contributing writer

Little did he know at the time, but Brig. Gen. Randolph P. Strong was glimpsing his own future as he served as Aide-de-Camp to Maj. Gen. Bruce Harris, Fort Gordon's commanding general, in the late 1980s.

"I began to understand the importance and significance of the position. I learned everything from training and doctrine to equipment," he said.

Those 15 months from May 1986 to August 1987 gave him a basis from which he will be able to command the post and lead the Signal Corps Regiment.

"It gave me quite a bit of foundation and base to build upon," he said.

While some things at Signal Towers, including some of the furniture, are still around from his first tour at Fort Gordon, there have been numerous changes on the installation and the surrounding community.

In the late 1980s, the landscape of the base was dotted with many World War II era buildings and barracks.

Those are all gone. "There's a lot of new construction," he said.

Not only are the visuals different, he said, but the key systems in the Signal Corps have changed. At the time, mobile subscriber equipment was the hot topic; today, it's the Joint Network Node. A training center for JNN at Brant Hall was unveiled last week.

Strong said he'd been watching the JNN develop while he was in his previous position as Director of Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems at the United States Pacific Command.

And the face of Augusta has changed, he said.

"I went to Riverwalk and Fort Discovery over the weekend. That's all new," he said.

Plus, there are many additional shopping centers and restaurants in the city.

"I'm amazed at how the community has grown," he said.

Commissioned into the Army in 1978, Strong has served in a balanced mix of command and staff positions, and he said he looks forward to having the opportunity of working with the troops again as the new Signal chief.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime," he said. "I don't think I could have timed it better. Now is the time I want to be in the position because of all that is going on in the world."

Attaining the post is the top achievement in his career which has already had many highlights.

Two particular posts stand out to Strong.

In 1999, he was deployed to East Timor.

"It was a tremendous opportunity," he said. "It's very unusual for a Signal Corps officer to be on the ground commanding the joint force."

Also, high on his list of



Photo by Marlene Thompson

### New CG

Gen. Kevin Byrnes, commander, Training and Doctrine Command, passes the Signal Corps' colors to Brig. Gen. Randolph Strong (left), U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon's new commanding general. Strong replaces Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, who retired after 30 years of service. Strong is the 31st chief of Signal. (For more from the change of command, see page 22.)

Army achievements, is a 1995 deployment to Bosnia.

He was part of the initial deployment into the country and helped establish U.S. base camps in the Balkans.

"Being the first in theater is always an exciting time," he said. "It was a little chaotic, but it was very much a highlight."

Strong said he is looking

forward to meeting the civilians and Soldiers who live and work at Fort Gordon.

He said he's received a tremendous welcome.

"It's been overwhelming," he said. "People have been reaching out with open arms."

This is the third post that Strong has taken over from retired Maj. Gen. Janet A.

Hicks. She preceded him at his previous post in Hawaii as well.

Some of her advice that will stick with him the most is to "remember all the great people here on post every day, and remember the community," he said.

"She's easy to follow. I couldn't be following a better person," he said.

## New Signal training equipment unveiled

Charmain Z. Brackett  
Contributing writer

Fort Gordon Soldiers will be able to train on the most up-to-date communications equipment unveiled July 14 at the General Dynamics C4 Systems Resident School.

"This is huge for the Signal Corps," said Maj. Gen. Janet A. Hicks, in one of her last official ceremonies as Signal Corps chief and Fort Gordon commander. "We are heralding the start of a momentous new capacity for our Soldiers."

Less than a year after the training equipment was requested, Fort Gordon and General Dynamics' officials were able to cut a ribbon on the first phase of the new training facility in Brant Hall, which includes two classrooms containing the Joint Network Node without its tactical shelter, four battalion command post nodes and a Ku Band tactical satellite trailer.

The JNN brings together the latest in commercial and government communication technologies in voice, data and video, according to retired Col. Peter Farrell, director of institutional training at General Dynamics C4 Systems.

"This is the next generation of computer equipment," he said. "It's commercial equipment packaged into tactical shelters. It's a leap ahead in speed and bandwidth."

The initial fielding of the equipment began at Fort Stewart last summer, and the 3rd ID JNN Network is currently in operation in Iraq.

"A year ago, we needed to get something going in training," said Farrell.

Hicks hailed the JNN Node as the biggest change in Army communications since the mobile subscriber equipment of about 20 years ago.

"We are really changing enough that people are taking notice," she said.

Lt. Gen. Steven W. Boutelle, U.S. Army Chief Information Officer/G6, attended the ribbon cutting and said an important step now will be to ensure that those using the equipment are "fully trained, skilled and educated."

See JNN, page 11



Photo by Kristy Davies

Warrant Officer Francois Pelletier, Company B, 442nd Signal Battalion, monitors the Warfighter Machine Interface of the Joint Network Node. The WMI displays all of the JNN activity and maps out the physical locations of the JNN modules. Pelletier describes the JNN as "an (Internet Technology) department on wheels."

## Downpour floods, wreaks havoc on post

Kristy Davies

Signal staff

Emergency personnel, servicemembers, family members and anyone else who was on post had a surprise in store for them Monday evening. Authorities estimated that approximately five inches of rain fell within one hour causing the already saturated ground to flood post-wide.

"This storm came out of nowhere (and) turned from nothing to a major storm in minutes," said Doc Scheffler, operations branch chief of the Installation Operations Center.

The storm began about 4 p.m. Monday and immediately started causing problems.

"The electricity (going out) was the first sign that anything was wrong," said Scheffler.

According to Sgt. Maj. Frank Thibodeau, Directorate of Public Works and Logistics sergeant major, at least five transformers were destroyed by lightning strikes. Damage to the transformer at the Fort Gordon Fire Department resulted in the building being run by a generator for approximately 10 hours and electrical crews had to replace the transformer Tuesday morning.

Flooding was caused by excessive rain in a short amount of time and overflowing drains.

"The drains (were) maxed out and they're not designed for five inches of rain within an hour," said Thibodeau.

"(The water) has nowhere to go." Chamberlain Avenue from 25th

Street to Rice Road was barricaded during the storm along with several other locations across post. Wash-out damage on Chamberlain Avenue near Hospital Road resulted in a temporary barricade while crews repair the road.

Although there were no reported injuries, several cars had to be moved from the street after stalling and floating in the flooded waters.

Some of the buildings damaged by flooding include Woodworth Library, the Fort Gordon Dinner Theater and two barracks buildings. A building at the Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy had water damage due to roof leakage.

Spc. Charles Hollis, HHC 67th Signal Battalion, was one of the Soldiers caught up in the flooding chaos.

"About a foot of water flooded my whole room," said Hollis. Hollis, along with about six other Soldiers on the first floor of the barracks, had to move to another room on the third floor.

Hollis and the other Soldiers moved furniture and personal items until about 3 a.m. Televisions, microwaves, shoes and military gear were just some of the items damaged.

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theater had three feet of flooding at the side exit doors, which caused damage to some electrical equipment.

"We were having auditions and they helped me move equipment," said Steve Walpert, installation entertainment director.

See flood, page 11



# Blue card required for treatment

**Capt. Paul Kassebaum**

*Special to the Signal*

“Why do I have to show my blue (or green or yellow) card every time I come to get medications?” is a question asked often at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center pharmacy.

Patients are given the card when they fill out a DD Form 2569 (Record of Third Party Insurance). This form is used by EAMC to document whether patients have other insurance in addition to Tricare.

If a patient does have third party insurance then EAMC receives payment for the care given to beneficiaries. These funds are then used to

improve care given to all EAMC patients.

Regulations state that the form must be completed each time care is provided at a military treatment facility. However, by presenting a card that shows you have completed the form within the last six months, you are exempt from the inconvenience of filling out the form at every visit.

The card must be renewed every six months, and a new DD Form 2569 must be completed every year.

Showing the card each time you visit the pharmacy helps to continue to improve care at EAMC for everyone.

*(Kassebaum is chief of the Outpatient Pharmacy at EAMC.)*



Photo by Sgt. Lyle Dillie

## For recovery

Eisenhower Army Medical Center opened a new Medical Retention Processing Unit July 12. Here, Col. Karen Adams (*left*), Garrison commander, and Col. Donald Bradshaw, commander of Southeast Regional Medical Command and EAMC, open Company E, part of Medical Troop Command. “The installation management services has charged this company with taking care of National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, who are injured during their mobilization, injured overseas, or when they demobilize from their unit and find something wrong with them.” said Adams, “We are going to take care of these Soldiers.”

# MAKING BETTER CHOICES

## Teen program focuses on behavior modification

Kristy Davies

Signal staff

Being a teenager is not easy, especially if you are overweight or obese. And for some teens in this situation, they have no where to turn.

According to Dr. Karyl Bental, a pediatrician at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center community care center, there are no support programs in the local area to send overweight teens.

Bental, along with nutrition, psychologists and community health nurses, decided to create a program here on Fort Gordon. "Our goal is to keep them on base so we don't have to send them out," said Bental.

"The idea was to have a multi-disciplinary approach to weight loss," Bental said about the joint efforts. "You need to have the nutritionist, behavior modification and exercise."

The Weight Management Support Group for Teenagers kicked off at the beginning of summer and lasts eight weeks. The program is held at the Health and Wellness Center.

Since the support group is still a pilot program, it is only for ages 12 to 17, but Bental hopes to reach out to more age groups as the program develops.

Twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday, the teens learn about healthier eating habits and how to exercise properly for at least 30 minutes a day. Once a week, the teens also get measurements taken for height, weight, waist circumference and fat analysis.

The diet of Americans is where many teens have obstacles. "I really attack on the common problems of (their) diet," said Maj. Victor Yu, dietitian for the program and the nutrition clinic at EAMC. "Stop drinking juice and soda."

Parents also get involved.

"You have to have the parents come (because) it is a family problem," said Bental. "(There has to be) family involvement or it won't be successful."

"I want my children to learn how to eat right and what they can do about their weight," said Norma Griffon, parent of two teenage girls in the program. "It's hard (and) there's times when it's easier to grab a soda instead of water, but we're trying."

The teens not only learn how to become healthy, but they develop friendships and support through their peers. "If

they have their peers around them, we thought maybe that would make it more enticing," added Bental.

The biggest challenge in the weight management program is behavioral modification. "People know what to do, it's getting them to change their behavior," said Lt. Col. Sherri Baker, chief of community health nursing at EAMC.

"It's a lifestyle change," added Baker. "If we can get the teens on the right track in terms of positive health and healthy behaviors...maybe we can pre-

vent illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease."

16 year old Antravena Williams has already learned a lot from the program. "It's helping me to control my eating more," said Williams. "(When we) go to the store, (we) pick up some fruit."

Williams has already seen a difference from changing her habits. "I've lost a couple of pant sizes already."

"I feel like (the program) is a good thing for all the teens out there to get healthier and know what to eat," added Williams.

According to statistics from the Center for Disease Control, the percentage of young people who are overweight has more than tripled since 1980. Among children and teens ages 6-19 years, 16 percent, which is more than nine million young people, are considered overweight. Approximately 25 percent of young people, ages 12-21 years, reported that they have no vigorous physical activity.

"Teens drink an average of two cans of soda per day," said Bental, "which is the equivalent of 20 teaspoons of sugar."

Teens that are overweight or obese increase their health risks including developing type 2 diabetes, hypertension, sleep apnea and many other health problems. Being overweight also affects a child's emotional health and self esteem.

"(Parents) should be educated on healthy lifestyles," added Bental. "(Especially) if their child is watching more than two hours of television or not exercising an hour or two a day."

The Weight Management Support Group for Teenagers is available to any teenage military dependent, and more information on the program can be obtained by visiting the child's physician or contacting Community Health Nursing at 787-5354.



Photo by Kristy Davies

**Jackie Dennis, an aerobics instructor, leads an exercise class during the Teen Health Program.**



# Navy DEFYs youth

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Contributing writer*

A group of pre-teens learned that parents can be handy especially if they are in a tough situation regarding peer pressure and drug abuse. “You can use your parents as an excuse,” said Haley Willis, who will be in the sixth grade at Merriwether Middle School in North Augusta this fall.

For two weeks, about 24 9 through 12 year-old dependents of Department of Defense employees participated in the Navy’s Drug Education for Youth camp at Fort Gordon.

“We talk about alcohol, drugs, self-esteem, peer pressure and conflict resolution,” said Petty Officer Shameka Bush, one of 16 staff members with the camp.

Some of the anti-drug talk was cloaked in fun.

On July 14, the children took part in the landing zone, a treasure hunt of sorts. The children were divided into four teams. Each group received a “treasure map” and a series of clues.

“Today is the landing zone. They go through different stations and find different things related to alcohol and drugs,” she said.

At each stop, the children completed a task.

One task was a team-building exercise.

The inside of a gazebo was redecorated to become land and sea. Shark fins placed atop blue paper gave the hint of the dangerous sea.

In the middle of the paper sea was a two-foot by two-foot crate.

All six of the children had to climb onto the cube at the same time and stay there for 30 sec-

onds. If one of the team members stepped into the sea, the team had to start over.

Once on top of the crate, two “pirates” jumped out and began squirting the children with water guns.

Other activities over the two-week period included a canoe trip and a Ropes course.

DEFY was started by the Navy in 1993, and the program reached Fort Gordon last summer.

The program has received the Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award three times.

DEFY is a two pronged program.

During the two-week day camp, the children bond with the Navy staff through the fun and games. Then when the children go back to school, the Sailors mentor the children once a month, Bush said.



Photo by Charmain Brackett

**Petty Officer Chuck Wells (*right*), dressed as a pirate, describes the July 14 afternoon activity to children participating in the Navy’s Drug Education for Youth camp at Fort Gordon last week.**



# Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

## Should helmet wear be rider's choice?

Senior Master Sgt. Ty Foster  
*Air Force Print News*

**PETERSONAIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** – After more than 26 years of motorcycle riding and 21-plus years of service, I've given up wearing my helmet. It's not that I don't see any value in it. I just happened to sell my bike. Had you for a minute, didn't I? Well, some folks seem to think they can just hang their helmet up because their state doesn't have a helmet law. They seem to think that just because other people don't wear a helmet, they don't have to.

They're wrong. And if they don't watch it, they could end up dead wrong.

Last year, an NCO from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, was riding through Colorado on his way to Sturgis, S.D.

The weather was beautiful as he rode over the Rockies. At some point along his ride, he decided he didn't need to wear his helmet. He was wrong, dead wrong. He left behind a family, friends and coworkers.

It's always a given when we lose someone in a motorcycle crash that the biker's family suffers. The rider's lapse in judgment evolved from a conscious thought that his or her actions were the right course to take. How would one come to the decision that taking a perfectly good helmet off one's head is the right decision?

Recently, I received an e-mail from a friend. He told me of an Airman riding his motorcycle out of the main gate at his installation. No big deal, right? It wasn't a big deal until he stopped his bike and took off his helmet to ride home – big problem. The

funny, but not so funny, thing was that he did it right in front of his commander – very big problem.

I propose the decision to remove a helmet is entirely selfish. "I don't like wearing a helmet." "It's too hot." "I disagree with the requirement for me to wear a helmet when I'm riding." To all of which I say, "So what?"

It doesn't matter what you think. Do you question the dress and appearance standards? Do you question your deployment training requirements? Do you question the rules and standards of performing your duties? No, probably not, because it's not a matter of personal choice. You joined the military voluntarily and, in doing so, swore – or affirmed – to obey "the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

Wearing a helmet is one of those orders according to Army Regulation 385-55, and is also a Georgia state law.

The regulation even goes so far as to stipulate the minimum requirements, "Helmets must meet, as a minimum, Department of Transportation standards and be properly worn and fastened. Helmets may also meet other standards such as the Snell Memorial Foundation or the American National Standards Institute." Goggles or a face shield are also required.

Ignorance is no excuse. Each of us, whether we ride or not, is responsible for knowing the standards.

Peers play a huge role in compliance, which ultimately means they play a huge role in saving lives.

Supervisors, your mission is at stake. Lose a person to a mishap for a few weeks or months and somebody

has to pull up the slack. Lose them forever and you're faced with answering that "What if I ... ?" question for the rest of your life.

Commanders, the responsibility lies with you. You are the buck and it stops here. Ensure your people know the standards and hold your supervisors accountable for enforcing them. You could be saving a life in the process.

Riders, if you're active duty, National Guard or Reserve ride by the rules. It doesn't matter whether you agree with them or not. To selfishly decide you don't need to comply with safety requirements is to jeopardize not only your life, but the security of our nation.

So mount up, ride by example and don't hang your helmet up until you're done with your ride.

## Feedback... *What do you think is the cause of the rising divorce rate in the military?*

By Kristy Davies



From a Navy standpoint, we get deployed a lot and spend a lot of time away from home which may cause a little tension in the home. You miss out on a lot of your children growing up. That could be the problem.

**Seaman Apprentice  
Reginald Roberts  
Naval Security Group  
Activity**



Three deployments in the last three years. That's what I've been on and that doesn't help. Spouses have more of the burden and the servicemember overseas can't really do anything. Finances are split and mess up things some times.

**Sgt. George General  
Co. B, 67th Sig. Bn.**



I think it's the stress connected with military service and the unknowns, along with the high mobility of our society. (Redeployment) is always a problem.

**Theodore Atwood, Jr.  
Retired Navy**



I think the isolation of military spouses and the high deployment rates among active duty Soldiers is contributing the most. The frequency and the lengths of the deployments. At Fort Drum people were deployed up to a year and half at a time.

**Sonya Johnson  
Directorate of Training**



It probably has a lot to do with the overall stress and separation that families have to undergo, I would say is the biggest cause. When deployed or in training. The (spouses) should bond together while their spouse is deployed.

**Warrant Officer  
Frank Orr  
Warrant Officer  
Basic Course**



Separation from the family due to mobilization and training. Stress on the family, especially with Reservists and National Guard with separation from their regular job and the family is left to pick up the pieces.

**Warrant Officer  
Wesley Taylor  
Warrant Officer  
Basic Course**

### Downrange

*'The Ultimate Recliner'*

WWW.DOWNRANGEWEB.COM 6/05/05 © 2005 Jeffery Hall

By Jeffery Hall

## Recruiting, retention on track

Sgt. Sara Wood  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** – Although the Army is experiencing recruiting challenges, overall retention and recruiting in the armed forces remain solid, a top defense official said Tuesday.

Testifying before the military personnel subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, David S. C. Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said that all services except the Army have met or exceeded quantity and quality objectives for active-duty enlistees through June of fiscal 2005.

The quality objective for recruits is critical, Chu said, and is measured by aptitude and educational achievement. While the Army fell short in its quantity of enlistees, the quality of new Soldiers remained high, he explained.

To meet its goal of recruiting 80,000 Soldiers by the end of the fiscal year, the Army is pursuing three initiatives, Chu said. The first is to add active-duty recruiters. The second is to offer stronger incentives, with increased enlistment bonuses and an increase in the Army College Fund. The last is to use more targeted advertising, focusing on "influencers."

Influencers are people such as parents, teachers and guidance counselors who can have an

effect on young peoples' decisions about their future, Chu said. These people need to be reminded of the nobility of military service so they will support young people who decide to enlist, he noted.

In addition, Chu called on committee members to lend their support and promote the value of the military to the public. "We hope that you will partner with us in this effort by teaming with us to emphasize the importance, nobility and value of service," he said.

Retention in all the services remains high, due in large part to the work of Congress to achieve needed pay raises and develop flexible compensation programs, Chu said. Continued support from Congress is key in keeping retention and recruiting strong, he added.

Included in the fiscal 2006 National Defense Authorization Act are requests for increases in the maximum amount for hardship duty pay and in the maximum allowable amount that can be offered under the selective re-enlistment bonus program, Chu said. Both these increases are important in sustaining future force strength, he said.

Already included in the act are an increase in the maximum enlistment bonus from \$20,000 to \$30,000 and a one-year pilot test allowing the Army to offer a \$1,000 referral bonus to existing Soldiers, Chu said. Both these provisions will have a definite, positive impact on recruiting, he said.



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# Competition names ‘Idol’

*Servicemembers compete for ‘Military Idol’ title*

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Contributing writer*

The deadline for a chance to become the Military Idol is fast approaching.

Deadline for entries in the contest styled after the popular television show “American Idol” is Thursday.

“This is an exciting opportunity for military folks to get up and show the world how talented they are,” said Steve Walpert, Fort Gordon’s entertainment director.

Fort Gordon is one of 36 military installations that are the sites of local competitions. Local competitions will be held beginning Aug. 6 at the Courtyard and held regularly through Sept. 30.

Fans can vote on their favorite idol contestant.

The installation winner will win \$500 and have a chance to compete for the top prize at the Army level of \$1,000. The winning servicemember’s unit will

receive \$500. Second place finishers will receive \$300 and third place winners will receive \$100.

The contest is open to active duty military of all branches stationed at a participating installation. Only singers can enter this event.

The final competition of all installation level winners will



be held at Fort Gordon in October. It will be broadcast live over the Pentagon Channel, said Walpert.

Contestants should be relieved to know that the judging won’t be as harsh as it can be on the show it’s patterned after.

“I think it’s going to be a lot of fun,” he said.

Fort Gordon was selected as the site of the international competition because of Fort Gordon’s reputation as a “post that takes good care of” its guests, he said.

Also, the installation has the right types of television resources needed to broadcast this event.

For more rules and other information, go to **[www.fortgordon.com/mil\\_idol.htm](http://www.fortgordon.com/mil_idol.htm)**. Entry forms can be e-mailed to Walpert at **[walperpts@gordon.army.mil](mailto:walperpts@gordon.army.mil)**, dropped off at the dinner theatre box office between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or faxed to 771-6927.

# Morris concert features blues

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Contributing writer*

The sounds of the Piedmont blues will be played in the Morris Museum of Art at 2 p.m. Sunday.

As part of the Southern Roots Series, musicians Freddie Vanderford and Brandon Turner will play songs in this regionalized genre of the blues style and add in songs from the Delta and Chicago blues styles.

The program is free. For more information, call 724-7501.

## FILM SERIES

The Imperial Theatre’s films series continues this weekend.

Disney’s The Rescuers will be shown as part of the children’s Read It and Watch It film festival at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$3 for children and \$4 for adults.

The Russian film “Burnt by the Sun” is the feature in the foreign film series. The 1994 drama is about the “last happy season in the life of a Bolshevik hero’s family,”

according to a news release from the Imperial Theatre.

The film begins at 8 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$4.

As part of the Fundance film series of Southern Independent works, “Mystery Train” will begin at 8 p.m. today.

“Mystery Train” is about Memphis, Tenn., and the “iconization” of Elvis Presley.

Admission is \$4. For more information, call 722-8341.

## CONCERTS IN THE PARK

The final concert in the Concerts in the Park series will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Maude Edenfield Park on Buena Vista Avenue in North Augusta.

The bluegrass band Split Rail will be featured in the performance sponsored by the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council.

In the event of rain, the free concert will be moved inside the North Augusta Community Center.

For more information, call 442-7588.

# Soldiers address ‘private wars’

**Tim Hipps**

*USACFSC Public Affairs*

**FORT BELVOIR, Va.** – The cast of BRAVO! Army Theatre Touring Company’s “Pvt. Wars” recently visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center to better understand the emotional issues of Soldiers recovering from injuries sustained in the War on Terrorism.

Many of the “private wars” portrayed in the play, which revolves around the physical and psychological recoveries of three injured Vietnam War veterans, apply to Soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, said Tobin Atkinson, director of BRAVO!’s “Pvt. Wars” by James McLure.

“It’s a really good play in the sense that these Soldiers are going to come back with issues,” Atkinson said of the play being delivered to Soldiers and military families on installations in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, Germany, Sarajevo, Kosovo, Belgium, Wisconsin and Chicago. “Soldiers who come back from Iraq are going to have a bit of baggage. Some guys are going to be able to leave it at the door and move on with their lives, and some aren’t. They’re going to be addressing those things personally.

“A lot of men and women who are rolling out are

worried before they go over, and that’s also a private war that they are facing: ‘Will I do the right thing when I get over there? Will I be the Soldier that I want to be? Have I been trained enough? Do I have the right equipment?’”

Cast member Sgt. 1st Class Robert Isom, a drill sergeant stationed at Fort Jackson, S.C., knows firsthand what many Soldiers are experiencing.

“I am a veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm, so this particular play definitely hits home with me,” Isom said. “There always are going to be wars, and we’re Soldiers, and that’s what we do. You’re going to have private issues that you don’t want to talk about but you can talk about. That’s something not everybody understands – that it’s OK to feel that way.

“This play is about three guys with totally different issues. These guys, despite their differences, find something in common and it brings them together. I think that’s the beauty of the military taking it on the road to bring them together to build one corps.”

The play is rated PG-13 with drama intended for mature audiences. The show plays July 28 and 29 at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre. Admission is \$8; for information call 793-8552.



Photo by Tim Hipps

**Cast members Sgt. 1st Class Robert Isom and Sgt. Eric Bragg struggle with injuries sustained during the Vietnam War in “Pvt. Wars” by James McLure, a BRAVO! Army Theatre Touring Company production. The PG-13-rated play is intended for mature audiences.**



# Chaplain helping heal battle stress

**Spc. Todd Goodman**  
*Army News Service*

**LANDSTUHL, Germany** – Sometimes the most painful war wounds are the ones that cannot be treated with conventional medicine. That is the case with Staff Sgt. William B. Winburn, who by his own admission will need a lot of mental pushups to get past his stint in Iraq.

Winburn's job was to escort convoys. He and his group of three Humvees were returning from a town near the Kuwaiti border July 3, on their way back to Baghdad when it happened. An improvised explosive device hit the sergeant's vehicle, badly injuring him and decapitating his driver right in front of him. It's an image the 35-year-old Kentucky native is having a hard time shaking.

"Me and him were close," said Winburn. "We were just sitting there cutting up and the next thing I knew it was over. He never had a chance. At least he didn't suffer. That's some conciliation."

Winburn slept only 30 minutes in the four days that followed the

blast. Every time he closed his eyes he saw his driver die. The nightmares make sleep an afterthought.

"I smell black powder every night when I lie down," he said. "I can smell everything in that Humvee. Every time I close my eyes it's the same thing."

Upon his arrival at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, one of the first requests he made was to speak with a chaplain. The sergeant's attitude is not one of a defeatist. He said he knows it's going to be difficult to lose the images of war, not to mention the multiple surgeries to his left hand. The blast took his thumb, the end of his pinky finger and all of the muscle in the palm.

"I'm dealing with it one day at a time," he said to Landstuhl Chaplain Lt. Col. Paul Williams. "I just feel guilty in my heart because I couldn't do anything to save him. He was only 22 years old."

Williams told him: "The important thing is that you are not bottling up your emotions the way previous generations did. It's not a sign of weakness to talk about these things."

Winburn took the advice and talked to anyone who would listen. He spoke at length with nurses and his roommate, an injured Marine. His mood seemed to improve, especially after receiving a few hours of morphine-induced sleep the night of July 7. He said he still had a dream about the incident, but when he woke up, he sat in his hospital bed and spoke aloud – reminding himself to think about positive images.

Remaining positive is so important to his mental recovery, the chaplain said.

"Anything he can do to lift his self-confidence will help because many aspects of this will attack his sense of self," said Williams, an Army Reserve Soldier with the 328th Combat Support Hospital now serving at Landstuhl. "He is going to have feelings of inadequacy, but there is hope."

Joking about his injuries and speaking to his wife and two little girls have buoyed Winburn's spirits. As he said, life is too short to be depressed about everything.

"It was such a good feeling to hear from my family," Winburn said. "A lot of service members will never see their families again. I was lucky. My life was spared and I thank God every day for it."

*(Goodman writes for Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Public Affairs.)*



Photo by Spc. Todd Goodman

**Staff Sgt. William Winburn, an injured Soldier from the 1st/623rd Field Artillery, speaks to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Chaplain Lt. Col. Paul Williams, on a patient ward at the hospital. Winburn was injured in Iraq when an improvised explosive device hit his Humvee.**

## Captain helps deliver baby

**Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell**  
*Army News Service*

**LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan** – An Army family practice physician had an unexpected surprise while touring a civilian hospital – she helped deliver a premature baby.

During her first visit to the Lashkar Gah's Hospital labor and delivery ward, Capt. Jacqueline Naylor's observation of a woman in the waiting area, who did not appear to be pregnant, prompted immediate medical attention.

Naylor, assigned to Charlie Company, 173rd Support Battalion (Airborne), asked to examine the woman after feeling her stomach and determining that she was about 32 weeks pregnant.

"All I could think about was that it would not be a good outcome for the baby if it was premature," Naylor said.

During the exam, she noticed the baby was in a breech position and asked the mid-wife if breech babies were delivered at the hospital – the mid-wife said no.

She quickly realized the urgency of the situation when she discovered the baby's feet were already protruding and concluded the baby had to be delivered immediately.

"The baby was purple and the cord was prolapsed, which means the cord was also coming, and also that the baby is basically dead," Naylor said. "This baby needs to be delivered right now."

Naylor explained that when the doctor arrived the woman appeared disturbed by his presence so she offered to deliver the baby to make her feel more comfortable, but the doctor insisted.

"He yanked the baby out by the feet and the head got stuck, which usually happens during a breech delivery," she said.

Naylor warned the medics that the baby might be still born because it is a common occurrence in cases like that. The medics consequently concentrated on the mother and laid the baby down.

"That's when noticed that the baby looked at me and kind of rolled its eyes" she said. "I yelled oh my goodness – that baby is alive."

While putting on gloves, she ran to the baby and saw an area with a suction machine and cranked it with her foot. Naylor put the suction tube down the baby's throat to stimulate its breathing.

"As soon as I did that, it started to cry and after patting the baby it started to turn pink," she said.

The purpose of the visit to the hospital was to review all of the projects that had been instituted by the Provincial Reconstruction Team, Naylor

said.

Prior to helping deliver the baby, Naylor had watched another baby being born at the hospital to observe how the mid-wives manage patients in labor.

"I was impressed because with their medicines and how well they managed the baby," she said. "Even though they don't have an incubator, they wrap the baby in decorative clothing and give it to the mom – I thought that was pretty cute."



Photo by Sgt. Erin Maynard

**Capt. Jacqueline Naylor, a family practice physician from the 173rd Support Battalion, holds a premature baby she helped deliver at a hospital in Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan.**

## Brooklyn honors Soldier, renames street

**Eric E. Huff**  
*Army News Service*

**BROOKLYN, N.Y.** – Pfc. Rayshawn S. Johnson, a resident of the Flatbush neighborhood in Brooklyn who was killed in Iraq almost two years ago, was honored in a street renaming ceremony July 16.

"It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of a grateful community, to salute Private 1st Class Rayshawn Johnson and his family," said New York City Council Member Yvette D. Clarke.

"We stand here today to tell the world that our community produces champions too," she said. "Everyone can come to the corner of Maple Street and Albany Avenue in Brooklyn to visit Rayshawn Johnson Way so that years from now, future generations will know the sacrifice he made."

Johnson was serving with 4th Infantry Division when he was killed in action Nov. 3, 2003, in Tikrit, Iraq. He was the 397th Armed Forces casualty killed when the Humvee he was riding in struck a land mine. He was the fifth New York City resident to be killed in Iraq and the first casualty from New York City since the end of the Iraqi war May 1, 2003.

Born Feb. 13, 1983, in Brooklyn to Patty Johnson and Nathaniel Herbert, he was cared for by his foster mother, Deborah Wynter. Johnson was a graduate of Mahalia Junior High School and Wingate High School in Brooklyn. He attended one year at Touro College before enlisting in the Army. He completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He was subsequently deployed in Iraq as a member of the 299th Engineer Battalion where

his mission was to help build bridges.

Johnson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

"It is with deep gratitude that I salute his mother, Deborah Wynter, and all the members of Rayshawn's family," Clarke said. "It is because of your love and guidance that Rayshawn became a strong, fearless young man who served his country with honor and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the liberties we hold dear."

"So often young people our young people are maligned, but Rayshawn Johnson was an example of the potential, creativity, determination & courage that lies in our youth," she said.

"It is our job as community leaders to help nurture and see to it that their potential is realized – this is the legacy and challenge that Rayshawn has left us."



# Personnel system launches in 2006

Joanna P. Hawkins  
*Army News Service*

**WASHINGTON**—The first phase of the National Security Personnel System, the new human resources system for the Department of Defense, is scheduled for implementation in early fiscal year 2006.

Spiral One of the NSPS will include about 277,000 general-schedule employees of all military services and some DoD agencies, and will be rolled out over a 12-month period.

During Spiral 1.1., more than 21,500 Army employees will convert to NSPS, according to the Army Civilian Human Resources Agency NSPS training Web site. This total includes approximately 2,400 human resources professionals, 2,000 civilian managers and supervisors and over 17,000 employees.

Spiral 1.2 is slated for implementation approximately six months after Spiral 1.1. However, no Army organizations will be included in this phase.

Spiral 1.3 deploys six to nine months following Spiral 1.2. and includes training for over 57,000 employees, including 600 human resources professionals and over 5,600 managers and supervisors.

Army civilian employees

from several organizations will be affected by the phases of Spiral One, including Army Corps of Engineers, Civilian Human Resources Agency, Space and Missile Defense Command, Army Materiel Command and Medical Command.

Spiral One will impact approximately 78,000 employees in the Department of the Army.

Spiral 2 comes after all phases of Spiral One are executed, analyzed and the Secretary of Defense certifies the performance management system.

Spiral 3 is scheduled for implementation during the 2008 fiscal year.

Extensive training of the Army workforce, both managers and employees, will be conducted prior to each phase of implementation.

NSPS will establish new rules for the hiring, assigning, compensating, promoting and disciplining of civilians. NSPS will also have elements that address the DoD’s labor relations and appeals process, according to the NSPS training Web site. It will affect approximately 60,000 employees.

For more information on NSPS, go to [www.cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps](http://www.cpol.army.mil/library/general/nsps).



Photo by Sgt. Lyle Dillie

## Legions of help

**Sandra Masterson (left), American Legion Post 505, Augusta, goes over an inventory of donated toiletries with Linda Jo Yehle, American Red Cross station chair at Eisenhower Army Medical Center. Post 505 collected the items for wounded Soldiers coming from overseas and military families in need at the hospital. Post 505 also donated hundreds of stuffed animals to be given to children of Soldiers from Fort Gordon.**

# Flood

From page 1

The Marine Corps Detachment did not let the storm get the better of them.

“We dug some (trenches),” said Lance Cpl. Rolando Navarrolopez, Marine Corps Detachment, about the flooding at their barracks and headquarters building. The Marines gathered together in the rain, grabbed shovels and dug trenches to divert the water around the building.

“We’re amphibious,” added Navarrolopez with a smile.

Staff and contractors with DPWL were working throughout the night and

day to restore electricity, clean up water damage, dig ditches, build berms, stack sandbags and respond to reported damage.

The surprise storm had positive impacts on many of the organizations. Civilians and servicemembers alike had to work together as a team to fight against the torrential rains. “It was fun (and) everything worked,” said Scheffler. “The people that should have done the right things did (the right things).”

Scheffler also noted that no storm has ever created such widespread damage

on Fort Gordon before.

DPWL and the IOC are preparing for more rain forecasted this weekend. “We are trying to figure out ways to prevent damage and look ahead,” said Scheffler. “Now that we know that it can happen, we have to plan for what could happen again.”

To report flooding during a storm on post, contact the military police and the IOC. Anyone who has water damage from the storm at their building or quarters can contact the DPWL service order desk at 791-5520.

# JNN

From page 1

As Soldiers use the equipment, they need to understand how the system functions and its capabilities, not just know how to flip a few switches, he said. Training will not only be for Advanced Individual Training Soldiers but will extend to warrant officers and members of Advanced and Basic Non-commissioned Officers classes.

The training for noncommissioned officers and warrant officers started before any equipment ever arrived at Fort

Gordon. The first JNN Network manager course was held in January.

Additional equipment will arrive at the General Dynamics C4 Systems Resident School within the next few months. Two additional JNN and four additional battalion command post nodes are scheduled to arrive next month with a base band hub node to arrive in October.

The first training on the equipment for AIT students is expected to begin in October.



# Landing support specialists

## Working under risk of death

**Pfc. Wayne Edmiston**  
*Marine Corps News*

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.**—An average day for the landing support specialists of Beach and Terminal Operations Company, 2nd Transportation Service Battalion consists of placing themselves directly under a 75,000 pound flying monster, while the wind blows in their faces at hurricane speed.

The Marines know the certain danger of a hovering CH-46 Sea Knight as they connect a load of supplies.

According to Cpl. Jerry Weeks, a landing support specialist and helicopter support team leader, helicopter support teams put themselves in harm's way everyday, even while training in preparation for combat.

"A CH-53 generates over 200,000 volts of static electricity created by the rotation of the blades," said Weeks. "This current runs right into the hooks that we attach the load onto."

"In order for the electricity to keep from electrocuting team members it must be grounded through a ground wire attached to the hook before anyone can hook on the load," said Lance Cpl. Thomas Wilson Jr., also a landing support specialist.

Another danger that looms above the Marines' heads is the helicopter itself.

"At anytime the helicopter is seven to 14 feet above our head," said Lance Cpl. John Blount, a landing support specialist. "We have to worry about the helicopter falling on top of us while we are hooking up the equipment."

The Marines piloting the helicopters above them respect and trust the expertise of the landing support specialists.

"They are outstanding and always provide awesome support," said Capt. Steven

Payne, a CH-53 pilot with Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 302, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Marine Air Wing.

It takes a lot of courage and stamina being under a 75,

000 pound aircraft in a hover, said Payne.

The communication between the crew of the helicopter and the support team is pivotal to completing the mission. Before every lift, the crews meet to discuss the procedures of the mission.

In combat, the dangers of training are added with the dangers of a hostile situation, said Wilson.

"In combat, we have to be quick and possibly could be taking fire which multiplies the danger," Wilson said. "The unit we are putting the load on for is relying on us."



Photo by Marine Pfc. Wayne Edmiston

**Landing support specialists attach a load of barrels to the bottom of a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter. An average day for the specialists consists of placing themselves directly under a 75,000 pound flying monster, while the wind blows in their faces at similar speeds of a hurricane.**



Photo by Sarah Crisp

## Big kitty

"Tankerbell" came to us as "Tinkerbell," but as an 18 pound kitty, her new name fits better. She is a classic tuxedo cat who loves to lay about and watch the world go by. The adoption fee is \$60 and includes spay or neuter, vaccines and a microchip. For information on Tankerbell or other pets available for adoption, call 787-3815.



# Reservists airlift dolphin to Florida

**Tech. Sgt. James Pritchett**  
*403rd Wing Public Affairs*

**KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.** – No one knows how or why Noah, a rough-toothed dolphin, ended up near death on a Texas beach last August; however his journey home drew national attention Friday when he was loaded onto a C-130J Hercules for a flight to Florida.

A crew from Air Force Reserve Command's 815th Airlift Squadron here was on an unrelated mission when told they were needed to deliver a special cargo.

"We transport a lot of things for the Air Force and for other services, but this is definitely one of the more unusual missions I've ever supported," said Senior Master Sgt. Todd Patterson, a loadmaster.

"I'm just glad we could help out with something like this," said Master Sgt. Steve Campanella, a 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. "This means something, not only to Noah and the people who have worked so hard to get him healthy, but also to the community. Anytime we are able to help out with a humanitarian mission, whether it's carrying hurricane relief supplies in the (United States) or air dropping food in foreign countries, I'm always proud to be a part of those missions."

When Noah was first brought in, he was so sick rescuers did not think he had a chance, said Lea Walker, regional director of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

"He had so many problems," she said. "We just didn't want to get too attached."

Noah had several infections including ulcerations in his esophageal tract which prevented him from eating his

normal diet. He also had an infection in his gums that caused them to swell and cover his teeth.

"That's how he got the name Noah," Walker said. "When we first saw him we thought he was very old and didn't have any teeth."

It turned out Noah was a middle-aged dolphin between 17 and 22 years old, and showed a determination to live from the beginning. He made a full recovery the past

10-and-a-half months and became healthy enough to travel back to his native waters in Florida.

Walker and her team of more than 30 volunteers nursed Noah back to health in a warehouse in Corpus Christi, Texas. There is a large tank in the warehouse, 40 feet across and filled with 40,000 gallons of salt water where the team treats injured dolphins like Noah.

Walker has spent much of

her time over the past 10 months searching for donations to keep the project going.

Walker said they never considered moving Noah over land because it would be too dangerous for his health and too traumatic.

To move the more than 300-pound dolphin, Walker's team had to construct a transport box about 10 feet long and three feet wide. He was picked up in a harness and moved over into the box where he laid on air mattresses during the trip.

"We can keep him comfortable in the tank for about a day," she said. "We really don't like to keep him out of the water that long."

When the team arrived at the aircraft, Walker brought along a small group of handlers who have worked with Noah,

and a veterinarian who kept Noah sedated during the move and monitored his condition. The others kept him wet using sprayers filled with water and kept him calm by talking to him and touching him.

"I'm glad we could work this out and that we were able to transport the whole team," said Maj. Erik Olson, pilot and aircraft commander. Olson and Capt. Todd Humphries, co-pilot, each took a few minutes to visit Noah during the flight.

After landing at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Noah was brought to Gulf World Marine Park in Panama City, Fla., where he joined three other dolphins.

Rescuers are hoping the dolphins form a small pod and stick together when they are released back into the Gulf of Mexico.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. James Pritchett

**Senior Master Sgt. Todd Patterson and Lea Walker (right) spend time with Noah, a rescued dolphin, on a C-130J Hercules en route to Florida. Aircrew with the 815th Airlift Squadron from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., helped volunteers keep Noah hydrated and comfortable during the three-hour flight. Walker is the regional director of the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network.**

## Saddam Hussein to face trial soon, Iraqi officials say

**Donna Miles**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** – Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein will soon go to trial, a senior Iraqi judge said during a July 17 news conference in Baghdad, Iraq.

Judge Raed Juhi, the chief judge of Iraq's special tribunal, said the trial date is expected to be set "within days," according to press reports.

Saddam and three other former regime members will stand trial for a July 8, 1982, massacre in Dujail, Iraq, following a failed assassination attempt against the former president. Iraqi security forces, acting on Saddam's orders, allegedly massacred an estimated 150 villagers.

Also facing trial are Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam's half brother and former chief of Iraqi intelligence; Taha Yassin Ramadan, former vice president; and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, former chief of the Revolutionary Court, press reports said.

Meanwhile, Iraqi investigators are continuing to prepare charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide against Saddam and former regime members in 12 other cases. They include the 1988 chemical attack on the Kurdish village of Halabja, which left 5,000 dead, and the brutal crushing of a Shiite revolt in southern Iraq in 1991.

Juhi said the investigation into those cases is "in its final stages."

U.S. forces captured Saddam, who was hiding in a spider hole near his hometown of Tikrit, in December 2003. The Iraqi government maintains legal custody of the former dictator, although Multinational Force Iraq officials have physical custody of him at the Iraqi government's request, defense officials said.

Saddam's upcoming trial is expected to help bolster the security situation in Iraq, Foreign Minister Hoyshar Zebari said during a June interview.

Zebari said the evidence against the former dictator is staggering – from mass graves of those who opposed him to the laundry list of atrocities he inflicted against his own people. "Every family has suffered from the rule of Saddam

Hussein, so there is no lack of evidence whatsoever," Zebari said. "There is an abundance of evidence to try and prosecute him."

The Iraqi government "is very committed to putting Saddam and other members of his former regime on trial, and I personally think that this will impact the security situation," the foreign minister said.

"It is very important that we start – the sooner the better," he said. "That is the view of this government. It is a widely shared view across the country."

Saddam will "be eligible for all the benefits of a free trial" and to choose his own defense team, Zebari said. "We will give him the same justice he has denied us for many years," he said.

The final verdict, he said, "will speak for Iraqi justice."



# ‘Teddy Troopers’ go airborne in Iraq

**Spc. Derek Del Rosario**  
*Army News Service*

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – They can be seen parachuting into various areas around Baghdad bringing smiles to the faces of Iraqi children.

These airborne “Soldiers” are actually “Teddy Troopers” or “Para-Bears,” stuffed animals with makeshift parachutes jumping into the arms and hearts of children during Operation Teddy Drop.

The commander for this unique operation is Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Kirgiss, pilot for Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Assault Helicopter).

Kirgiss began the operation in mid-April, inspired by previous humanitarian efforts he had witnessed.

“I got the idea from a lot of my friends who conducted humanitarian missions on some of my previous deployments,” Kirgiss said. “In Bosnia, I saw school supplies donated; in Kosovo, teddy bears were given out. I wanted to model something after the (Berlin) Candy Bomber who parachuted bags of candy to kids.”

In conjunction with his official flight missions, Kirgiss brings boxes of stuffed animals with makeshift parachutes along with him. When he sees a child down below, he instructs a crew member to drop a Teddy Trooper.

“There is a mission to be done, but dropping bears doesn’t take away from that mission,” Kirgiss said. “We have the assets to do both our mission and execute Operation Teddy Drop effectively.”

Kirgiss originally told a group of eight friends and family members about the operation. He received help in the form of donated stuffed animals and parachute supplies. The original network of



Photo by Spc. Derek Del Rosario

**Spc. Benjamin Kepenke, a crew chief with Company C, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, prepares a “Teddy Trooper.” Operation Teddy Drop is a humanitarian mission geared to give teddy bears to Iraqi children.**

eight grew immensely, and Kirgiss began to receive donations from everywhere around the States.

“Originally, I just wanted my friends and families to look into their kid’s closet to find old teddy bears to donate,” said Kirgiss. “When unit members started talking and my friends started talking, through word of mouth it just got out and now I get donations from everywhere.”

Kirgiss spends most of his free time, usually at night, making the parachutes for the Teddy Troopers. The airborne recruits come in all shapes and sizes, so special-

ized parachutes usually have to be made. Using material from old, donated parachutes, Kirgiss makes the parachute that is best suited for his troopers so they can complete their mission. It takes Kirgiss approximately three minutes to make each chute.

The unit’s largest recruit jumped May 21 as part of the largest drop in the unit’s short history.

“We received eight boxes of donated stuffed animals one day. The boxes stacked to my ceiling,” Kirgiss said. “The following day we dropped (more than) 200 stuffed animals, including the

largest one we have ever received – a bear that was about three feet tall and weighed around six pounds. I needed to make a special chute for that trooper.”

Kirgiss tries to get the plush toys to all kids, but his main aim is the poorer Iraqi children in the countryside.

“It can be a safety hazard to drop them in the city. We don’t want kids running into the streets to get them,” said Kirgiss, also the safety officer of the company. “When we can, we try to send the bears to urban and poorer areas, and for each kid we see we send down a bear so there is no fighting among the children.”

Sending these Teddy Troopers on their mission is very fulfilling for Kirgiss.

“It’s a great thing to see, even from 200 feet above,” Kirgiss said. “When we see those kids wave and we send down a bear, most kids will not know what it is at first. Some hide behind their parents, some stay back in hesitancy, but once they see that parachute open, they know what it is and go running toward it. Some even catch them before they hit the ground.”

More than 900 Para-Bears have jumped since the start of the operation.

For Kirgiss, it is a personally gratifying experience to be a part of the operation, and an operation he hopes will have an impact on the future.

“It is something I find very fun and constructive,” he said. “Talking about it also helps me stay grounded to my two young children. I can’t help but think that somewhere down the line we might be influencing the future decision makers of Iraq. This operation is only a small way to show that we are human and compassionate. We are Soldiers, but we are humane as well.”







# Sports & Leisure

## Sports UPDATE

### Fishing tournament

Outdoor Recreation is hosting a bass tournament from daylight-2 p.m. **Sunday** at Butler Reservoir.

Cost is \$20; \$10 for Sportsman's Complex members. For information, call 791-5078.

### Skydiving trip

Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers is holding a skydiving trip **Saturday**.

Cost is \$119-\$129 and includes instruction and one tandem jump.

For information, call Spc. Marshall Phelps at (706) 564-2282.

### Pool open

The Courtyard Pool is now open, noon-6:45 p.m. Thursday to Tuesday; closed Wednesday. The pool is open to all ranks and grades.

### Summer concert

Montgomery Gentry with special guest star Miranda Lambert will perform at the Army Concert Tour at 7:30 p.m. **Aug. 14** at Barton Field.

Tickets are \$25 at the gate or \$20 in advance; special advance tickets cost \$15 Saturday and Sunday only.

Tickets available at the dinner theatre, PX customer service, bowling center, Aladdin Travel or at [www.fortgordon.com](http://www.fortgordon.com).

For information, call 791-6779.

### Paintball course

The Paintball course behind The Courtyard is open 3 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday, each day until dark.

Group rates available; call 228-5540 for information.

### Golf program

Gordon Lakes Golf Course is having a summer Junior Golf Program from 6-7 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** and **Aug. 29 to Sept. 1**.

Cost is \$5 per session and includes clubs. Program limited to first 30 youths ages 8-17; sign up by the first of each month by calling the pro shop at 791-2433.

### Military idol

Thirty-six military installations, including Fort Gordon, are having Military Idol singing competitions. The winner from each installation receives \$500 and advances to compete in the national Army-wide competition, being held here Oct. 17-22 (see page 6).

Regional competition here begins Aug. 6 at The Courtyard; applications are due **Thursday**. For information, call 793-8552 or go to [www.fortgordon.com](http://www.fortgordon.com) for rules, entry forms and information.

### Volunteers wanted

Volunteers are needed for the annual Arts in the Heart art festival **Sept. 16-18** in Augusta.

To volunteer call Mary Jones at 791-2014 or 791-6082.

## Center becomes more family-friendly

**Charmain Z. Brackett**

*Contributing writer*

Tim Stancil will never forget that July day in 1999 when he first walked into Gordon Lanes.

The bowling center was "dirty, dingy and dark. There was smoke everywhere," he said.

Stancil had come to the bowling center from Italy, where he managed one on an Air Force Base. He had been told that the center needed some work, but just how much work was left unsaid.

"I was beginning to wonder if I should have gotten on a plane back to Italy," he said.

Since the place was so rundown, "we didn't have a lot of league bowlers. We didn't have a lot of bowlers," he said.

However, the bowling center has undergone a transformation under the hands of Stancil and his staff who love the sport and want to pass that feeling on to younger generations of bowlers.

Some of the changes are cosmetic.

The center has gotten new paint, new machines, new ball returns and a new front counter.

"It's been brightened up," he said.

"No smoking was the greatest thing that ever happened," he said.

The ban on smoking in federal places has boosted business.

"It's brought the families back in. Every day this week, we've been packed with moms and dads and children.

It's turned into a family atmosphere," he said.

Individual and league bowlers have returned to Gordon Lanes.

Jim Neal, assistant manager, said the Saturday youth league has swelled to more than 100 children. He may have to add an additional session for youth, he said.

Adults bowl in nightly leagues except on Saturday nights.

Stancil said that in the Southeast region, Gordon Lanes has the most games

bowled per day and the lanes are the second top income producer.

Also, for the past five years, Gordon Lanes has been the site of a professional bowling tournament.

Stancil has worked in or managed bowling centers across the world. He's worked at the Showboat Hotel in Las Vegas with its 106-lane bowling center; he's worked in England and Italy.

A member of the Professional Bowlers Association for

more than 20 years, Stancil has also bowled at many centers.

"I knew what I wanted. I knew the things I didn't need and couldn't have," he said.

While the cosmetics have helped improve the lanes, Stancil said the ultimate reason for the bowling centers turn around is the staff.

Neal is "my right-hand man," said Stancil. "He loves bowling as much as I do."

Pro shop manager Mark Bakke is another PBA bowler.

An Army retiree, Bakke was

an All-Army bowler for seven years. In his career, he's had 21 perfect games.

The pro shop is "number 2 or 3 in the Army," Stancil said.

There are more than 300 bowling balls in stock, plus shoes and accessories.

Bowling balls range from \$50 to \$200.

"I try never to have anything over \$200," said Stancil. "I've got to take care of our bowlers."

Balls can be fitted and drilled on site.

Another key employee is Mike Earnest, the mechanic who keeps the machines going.

Earnest is also an Army retiree and All-Army bowler.

Staff members don't keep all of their knowledge to themselves, but work to help players find their game.

When Stancil arrived in 1999, it had been 15 years since anyone had bowled a perfect game.

"It was embarrassing," he said.

Since he arrived, there have been "more (300 games) in the last six years than in the previous 34 year history," he said.

There was one weekend when two players bowled 300. Even youth bowlers have bowled 300.

A special end of summer bowling day will be held at the lanes from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. July 30.

Games, shoe rental, hot dogs, chips and small soft drinks will be 50 cents each.

For information about the lanes and upcoming fall leagues, call 791-3446.



Photo by Kristy Davies

**Bowling during lunch every day keeps 1st Sgt. Nathaniel Hatchett, Company A, 447th Signal Battalion, in shape for the three bowling leagues he participates in. "I enjoy bowling," said Hatchett. Hatchett bowls daily at Gordon Lanes Bowling Center on post. "It's convenient for Soldiers and civilians and the prices are (better) compared to off post bowling centers."**

## Schumacher wins, takes points lead

**Chris Dorato**

*Army News Service*

**DENVER, Colo.** — Behind the efforts of Top Fuel driver Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher, the U.S. Army NHRA Racing Team marched to its third straight victory in the Mopar Mile-High Nationals at Bandimere Speedway July 17.

After U.S. Army Pro Stock Motorcycle pilots Antron Brown and Angelle Sampey won in successive races, Schumacher followed suit in the thin air of the Rocky Mountains. Brown al-

most provided the U.S. Army a "double up" victory, but came up just short in the finals, while Sampey suffered a close first-round loss in eliminations.

With his victory over Morgan Lucas, Schumacher took back the Top Fuel points lead from Doug Kalitta. He's now 20 points up heading for the CARQUEST Auto Parts Nationals at Pacific Raceways outside of Seattle next weekend.

"To come out here to a place we've never won at and turn in the kind of performance that we did is just outstanding," said the 2004 NHRA

POWERade Top Fuel world champion. "I'm ecstatic that we were able to deliver another victory to our hard-working Soldiers."

Schumacher disposed of Don Sosenka, Doug Herbert and Cory McClenathan en route to his meeting with Lucas. He then turned in a 4.617-second pass at a track record speed of 331.45 mph to claim his fourth win of the year and the 25th of his career.

"Alan Johnson (his crew chief) is just incredible," added Schumacher. "When you get to the finals against him

you better come loaded for bear. Now, we have to take this momentum on to Seattle next weekend."

Despite dropping a close final-round race to Ryan Schnitz, Brown moved to within one point of Pro Stock Motorcycle leader, G.T. Tonglet.

"This U.S. Army team worked extremely hard this weekend and the results were there," he said. "We've been cutting away at that lead for some time now and we're just about there. We're bound and determined to get it sooner than later."

## Reserve Marines help gym shape up

**Marine**

**Julianne Sohn**

*Marine Corps news*

**Capt.**

**CAMPFALLUJAH, Iraq** — Civil Affairs Group Marines go out into the local communities to find ways to assist Iraqis, but sometimes they help out their fellow service members.

Representatives from the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Gym recently presented three 5th CAG Marines with letters of appreciation for turning an idea during their daily workouts to a project to motivate others get fit.

"We found the gym here had a lot to offer, but they needed better equipment and needed to encourage more Marines, sailors and soldiers to come," said Maj. Fredrick Mickle, an Elk Grove, Calif., resident and a reserve Marine.

Mickle, 43, was one of the Marines, who worked on making over the gym. He flexed his knowledge from running an Athletes Foot store, which specializes in assisting athletes with finding the right footwear, to help shape the concept of re-naming the gym and coming up with fitness contests.

"We sat down and helped them develop a marketing plan," Mickle said. "Instead of calling it the 'MWR,' we thought to give the gym a name."

Mickle, Sgt. Jack Williams of Orange, Calif., and Cpl. Zachary Hosford of Towson,

Md., came up with a new name — the "Fallujah Body Shop."

"It started out as joking around," said Hosford, 24, who was inspired by Mickle and Williams to increase his weightlifting regime.

The three Marines brainstormed ideas to earn T-shirts and then came up with a

contest. If a person could lift a certain amount of weight, they would get a T-shirt, said Hosford.

"Well, I collect T-shirts and I have one from every gym that I have worked out in," said Williams, 43, who began weightlifting in high school. "From California, Florida and



Photo by Marine Capt. Julianne Sohn

**Maj. Frederick Mickle, an operations officer with the 5th Civil Affairs Group, works out in the "Fallujah Body Shop." He was one of three Marines, who set up a weightlifting competition last month.**

those who can lift 400 pounds.

"I feel that the impact will be huge," said Williams. "Every month a 300 or 400 bench press competition — it builds gym spirit and bragging rights that anyone can achieve as long as you work at it."

Williams began weightlifting competitively in the Marine Corps and even trained for the Armed Forces Classic Body Building Competition in 1989.

"So far Hosford, Williams and I have shirts," said Mickle, who said he has T-shirts for both the 300 and 400 pound lifts.

Mickle is 5 feet 11 inches tall and currently weighs 210 pounds and has always included weights in his workouts. When he ran track at the Citadel, he weighed 165 pounds.

"I was lean muscle and not bulk," Mickle said. "Over time, things change. Weights have always been a part of my health and fitness."

This is something that Mickle shares with Hosford and Williams.

Hosford was always physically active. He played lacrosse for 17 years and was even involved in one national championship in college.

"I think I always had a good foundation for lifting," Hosford said. "Sgt. Williams and Maj. Mickle have made a huge difference in my working out and when I go home I will continue to maintain it."



# Joint IED Task Force helping defuse threat

**Rey Guzman**  
*Army News Service*

**WASHINGTON** – In an effort to combat the leading cause of troop casualties in Iraq, the Department of Defense has put together a task force to help minimize the impact of improvised explosive devices.

The Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Task Force was established as a means of collaborating efforts among military branches and international agencies to help eliminate the threat posed by IEDs.

“The task force was put together as an Army Task Force in the fall of 2003, and made joint in July of 2004,” said Christine DeVries, spokesperson for the Joint IED Defeat Task Force. “We’re Army-led (in terms of the number of representatives) but we have Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. We’re also inter-service, interagency and multinational.”

Based on the task force’s new directive, the JIEDD TF represents the “Department of Defense’s wide-ranging efforts in fighting the IED threat” and is led by Brig. Gen. Joseph Votel, director of the JIEDD TF.

IEDs are defined as makeshift or “homemade” bombs often used by enemy forces to destroy military convoys. They are currently the leading cause of casualties to troops deployed in Iraq.

The JIEDD TF is responsible for pulling together all DoD efforts to solve the deadly IED problem faced by the troops in theater. The task force currently operates under the direction of the deputy secretary of defense, and has been allotted \$1.23 billion for the current budget cycle.

According to DeVries, approximately 140 members report to the Task Force while a “couple hundred” more contribute through other organizations or contractors.

“We’re getting information in almost real time,” she said. “What we are doing is taking a holistic approach to the IED problem – that means with technology, training and intelligence.”

## TECHNOLOGY BECOMES JIEDD TF’S FIRST CONCERN

During the early stages of the IED problem, Task Force officials believed that technology was the best way to defeat the threat.

“The first items that we helped with were the up-ar-

mored Humvees, the add-on armor to protect from the blasts and the small-arms protective inserts that go inside the outer tactical vests,” said Col. Lamont Woody, deputy of the JIEDD TF. “Since then we have gone on to counter radio controlled initiators that the enemy has been using. In other words, we have gone out and tried to figure out how we counter the radio controlled threat.”

Since 2003, the JIEDD TF has invested about \$378 million toward the acquisition of technology to counteract radio-controlled devices used to detonate IEDs. The devices, called Countering Radio-Controlled IED Devices – Electronic Warfare, or “jammers,” exist in six vehicle-mounted forms to detect and prevent potential IEDs.

“We have done a lot of research and study, and started to get the production lines in America spun up to get the actual jammers on the vehicles and to the troops that are deployed,” Woody said. “Our goal is to reduce the casualties and to make sure that the troops have the very best TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures), and the very best equipment that we can provide them.”

## IED CASUALTY RATE DECREASES

Woody, who is responsible for joint operations and integration for the JIEDD TF, said that overall IED casualty rates have declined since the inception of the task force, despite an increase in IED usage by the Iraqi insurgency.

According to JIEDD TF statistics, there has been a 45 percent decrease in the rate of IED casualties since April 2004. An estimated 30-40 percent of IEDs are found and rendered safe before they are able to be detonated.

In addition to the improvements in Soldiers’ armor, vehicle protection and TTP, Woody credits this decreased casualty rate and increased bomb-detection trend to the task force’s field assessment teams.

Woody says that these field assessment teams analyze the sequence of events before an IED explosion, but do so during the post-blast period. They then take the information they collect and forward it to commanders in the field, providing them with advice and indicating any potential changes to the enemy’s own TTP.

“We have a way that we go



Photo by Senior Airman Stephen Otero

**The Joint IED Defeat Task Force is the Department of Defense’s effort to eliminate the threat caused by improvised explosive devices, like this one seen during a joint Army-Air Force training exercise in Fort Polk, La.**

and get that info back so that we can analyze it,” Woody said. “We’re trying to be able to be as flexible as the enemy and trying to get out in front.”

Currently, the JIEDD TF is focusing on training as the key to defeating the IED problem. The task force has a Tactical Advisory Team which uses a “multi-echelon” approach to training in areas such as IED awareness, non-standard operations, training strategies and IED-counter tactics. The advisory team has also set up a Web site where deployed units can remain updated with new TTPs developed since their mandatory pre-deployment training.

“The best sensor we have for detecting an IED is an individual Soldier’s or Marine’s eyes,” DeVries said. “What we are trying to do is get information about what they are seeing right now back here and into the training programs right away so that as we train (others) before they head over, what they are being trained here, at their home station training, more closely mirrors what they are going to see.”

## THREE MAIN IED CLASSIFICATIONS EXIST

IEDs are classified into one of three explosive types – package, vehicle-borne and suicide bomb IEDs. While all three are considered severe threats to Coalition forces in Iraq, package or roadside IEDs are responsible for the highest number of casualties.

“The roadside IED is the leading (cause of casualty) because of the sheer number, but they are all deadly,” Woody said. “When you are that guy catching that round, they’re all equal, and we’re going after all three of them equally with the same amount of enthusiasm and force.”

When asked if the large number of IED detonations was deterring the Coalition’s efforts of training the Iraqi security forces, Woody said that “just the opposite” has occurred.

“It’s giving those young Iraqis more momentum to protect their own nation,” Woody said. “I mean think about that, that’s their soccer field, that’s their neighborhood, that’s the places where they want their brothers and sisters to be able to walk to school. I think the Iraqis are

making the difference.”

Woody also said that the work of the U.S. ground forces have been a critical element in helping defeat IEDs, which not only target Coalition troops, but innocent civilians as well.

“There’s a lot of reason to believe that the moment is

swinging our way and it’s mainly (because of) our Soldiers and Marines, those troops on the ground,” he said. “Just their mentality, their ability to adapt, they’re smart. They’re the reason we are going to win this war.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Gish

## Big bang

**Sgt. 1st Class Shaun O'Connor carefully packs fuse holes on 120mm rounds with C4 explosives outside of Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq, July 10. U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal team members are preparing more than 2,500 pounds of seized ammunitions for demolition. O'Connor is attached to the 116th Battalion Combat Team.**



# Spectrum



Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, gives her last “Hoo-ah” as the Signal Center commander at the end of the Army song during a change of command and retirement ceremony. Photo by Marlene Thompson



(Left) Brig. Gen. Strong, incoming commander, Gen. Kevin Byrnes, TRADOC commanding general, and Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks mount a Humvee to inspect the troops prior to the passing of the command. The inspection is an Army tradition. (Right) A Soldier awaits a command as smoke plumes from the barrel of a cannon. The cannons were fired 13 times for the rendering of honors. (Below) Hicks is embraced and kissed by her 14 year old daughter, Jennifer, after finishing her heartfelt goodbyes to the installation and Soldiers.



**Kristy Davies**  
*Signal staff*

With time comes change and change inevitably came to Fort Gordon on July 15. Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commander, handed over her responsibilities to Brig. Gen. Randolph Strong during a traditional change of command ceremony on Barton Field. “Gen. Jan Hicks has done an absolutely brilliant job here for the last three years,” said Gen. Kevin Byrnes, TRADOC commanding general. “We say farewell to a great leader and welcome another.” Hundreds of Soldiers were in formations representing units assigned to the installation. Strong, a native of Woodland, California, comes to Fort Gordon from U.S. Pacific Command where he served as the Director for Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems since August 2002. The traditional passing of the colors from Hicks

to Strong represented the passing of the duties and responsibilities of command. After the official change of command, the units marched in formation to be reviewed by the new commander. “It’s a great day to be a Soldier,” said Hicks during her outgoing speech. “(Strong), you have just taken the best job in the world.” As Hicks spoke to the commanders and Soldiers of the installation she has commanded for the past 3 years, tears filled her eyes. “Please know that I will never forget you...you are the best.” “From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for all you do.” “I would not be here in this wonderful job at this wonderful location if it wasn’t for all of the great work that you all have done,” said Strong. “I look forward to the many challenges ahead (and) pledge to do all I can to continue and to add to all of the great work that has already been done.” A retirement ceremony was held for Hicks following the change of command.



The Signal Corps Band proudly plays during the change of command ceremony. Photo by Kristy Davies



Photo by Kristy Davies